

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Chamings, U.S. Patent 6,650,648. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the sensor element is directly attached to the measuring spring. As noted previously, Chamings does not disclose attaching the sensor 230 to the measuring spring 266 (nor does it show attaching the sensor 230 to the sliding plate 26). Rather, the sensor is attached to the housing elements 22 and 24. Thus, Chamings fails to disclose or suggest a sensor element directly attached to a measuring spring. Therefore, the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Chamings.

The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 449122062600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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